

hoped for, the conviction of things unseen,” the Scripture says. What it means to me is that here, if we have enough faith, in spite of all the pressures to the contrary, we can define ourselves from the inside out, in a town where everybody tries to define you from the outside in.

We need our faith as a source of hope because it teaches us that each of us is capable of redemption and, therefore, that progress is possible—not perfection, for all the reasons Reverend Graham said, but progress. We need our faith as a source of challenge because if we read the Scriptures carefully, it teaches us that all of us must try to live by what we believe or, in more conventional terms, to live out the admonition of President Kennedy that here on Earth God’s work must truly be our own.

But perhaps most important of all for me, we need our faith, each of us, President, Vice President, Senator, Congressman, General, Justice, as a source of humility, to remember that, as Bishop Sheen said, we are all sinners. St. Paul once said in an incredibly moving Scripture in the Bible, “The very thing which I would not do, that I do, and that which I would, that I do not.” And even more, not only because we do wrong but because we don’t always know what is right.

In funerals and weddings and other important ceremonies, you often hear that wonderful verse from Corinthians cited: “Now abideth faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love.” But the important thing is often left out, which is the verse above. Why is the greatest of these love? Because “now I see through a glass, darkly . . . now I know only in part.” None of us know all that we need to know to do what we need to do.

I have always been touched by the living example of Jesus Christ and moved particularly

by all the religious leaders of His day who were suspicious of Him and always trying to trap Him because He was so at ease with the hurting and the hungry and the lonely and, yes, the sinners. And in one of those marvelous attempts to trick Christ, He was asked, “What is the greatest Commandment?” And He answered, quoting Moses, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” And then He added, as we should add, “This is the great and foremost Commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Just 2 weeks and a day ago, I took the oath of office as President. You know the last four words, for those who choose to say it in this way, are “so help me God.” And the Chief Justice was giving me the oath, and I was trying to remember the words. And I said, you know, when I get to the end I’m going to think of the ringing voice of Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln and the Roosevelts and Kennedy and all the other great Presidents through the ages, and I will say “so help me God” with all the strength at my command. And I did. But deep down inside I wanted to say it the way I was thinking it, which was, “So, help me, God.” [*Laughter*]

So today my prayer for you as we begin this great new adventure, and I pray that your prayer for me, will be that God will help us to have the strength to define ourselves from the inside out, not the outside in, to have the hope that it takes never to give up and the determination it takes always to make progress in an imperfect world and the humility to walk by faith and not by sight.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:30 a.m. at the Washington Hilton.

Exchange With Reporters During a Luncheon With the Vice President *February 4, 1993*

The Economy and Job Creation

Q. Mr. President, with productivity soaring and factory orders up, does this mean it’s a strong recovery and you might have to adjust your economic plan?

The President. Well, we haven’t—it could mean that more evidence will come in the deficit will be smaller. But there’s no—it could mean that we’ll have more jobs, which is the real issue. But we don’t see it yet.

I think the real issue—what appears to be the case is that American productivity is up and that a lot of Americans are refinancing their homes or buying new homes because of low interest rates. But so far, we're not adding jobs to the economy. That's the critical thing.

I think it means we need to take a real close look at the credit crunch for small business. I think it means we need to redouble our efforts on health care cost restraints because that's one of the things that's preventing small business from hiring more people. But if you look at the downsizing going on in a lot of these big companies, we still need a program which will help us to generate jobs and higher income jobs. And that's the focus that I had for several months now.

I'm happy that the productivity rates picked up, and I'm glad that people are able to finance their homes at lower interest rates. But I'm still not convinced that this country is yet set on

the right course in terms of generating the jobs. And that's the key thing: jobs.

Q. What if the markets, which seem encouraged by your commitment to deficit reduction, go down if you don't live up to your promise of 145,000 jobs?

The President. I think they want us to have a steady, disciplined, downward path on the deficit. But I also would point out that sometimes when the markets have been up, the job market has been down. The market that counts is the market that affects ordinary Americans. Do they have jobs? Are their incomes going up? And that's why I think we have to increase investment for jobs and decrease the debt. And we're going to do our best to do both. On February 17th I'm going to—

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:30 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher's Trip to the Middle East

February 4, 1993

In accord with my pledge to maintain continuity in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, I have decided to dispatch Secretary of State Christopher to the Middle East. His purpose will be to convey to all the parties my commitment to advance the peace negotiations. He will elicit their views on how best to promote progress, and he will discuss bilateral issues and regional problems, including Iraq.

This will be Secretary Christopher's first mission abroad. It is an indication of the priority my administration attaches to peacemaking in the Middle East. It also presents an opportunity for the parties to focus their energies on the formidable challenge of achieving peace in a strife-torn region.

With violence engulfing so much of the world, it is striking that in the Middle East a process of direct negotiations has begun. Israel, all its Arab neighbors, and the Palestinians have been engaged in a common endeavor to achieve a

just, lasting, and comprehensive peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The United States, together with our Russian cosponsor, played a critical role in launching these negotiations. It is my intention to see that we continue that role.

We cannot impose a solution on the Middle East. Only the leaders of the region can make peace. Theirs is an awesome responsibility. Those who oppose the process, who seek to subvert it through violence and intimidation, will find no tolerance here for their methods. But those who are willing to make peace will find in me and my administration a full partner. This is an historic moment. It can slip away all too easily. But if we seize the opportunity, we can begin now to construct a peaceful Middle East for future generations.